REMARKS

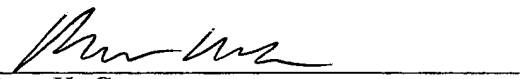
Applicants have amended claims 15, 19, 24, 26, and 44. Claims 15-23 and claims 24-30 now incorporate all the limitations of claim 1. Examination on the merits of the claims is respectfully requested.

Support for the amendments to claims 15, 19, 24, 26 is found in the definition of "k" in original claim 1. Support for the amendment to claim 44 is found in the definition of A_4 as C_3 alkyl in claim 44. Applicants have not added new matter by these amendments.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 376462000800.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 29, 2002 By: 

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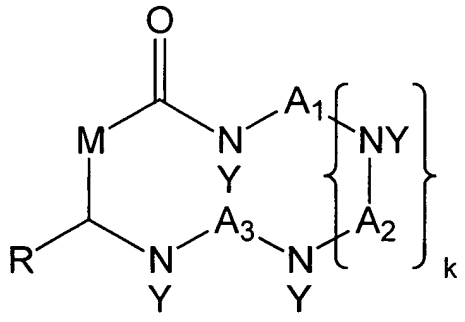
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 15, 19, 24, 26, and 44 have been amended as follows:

15. (Once amended) A method of synthesizing a compound of the formula



wherein A_1, each A_2 (if present), and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl;

wherein each Y is independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein M is selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein k is 0, [1,] 2, or 3;

and wherein R is selected from C_1-C_{32} alkyl;

comprising the steps of:

reacting an ω-halo alkyl alkanoate with an aldehyde or ketone-containing compound to give an alkene-containing alkanoate compound;

reacting the alkene-containing alkanoate compound with a compound containing two primary amino groups and optionally containing secondary amino groups to effect addition of one of the amino groups across the double bond;

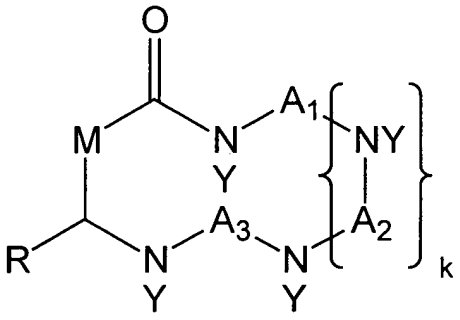
cyclizing the other amino group with the alkanoate group to form an amide bond; and

optionally alkylating the secondary amino groups if present.

19. (Once amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the compound containing two primary amino groups is selected from the group consisting of H_2N-A_1-$(NH$-$A_2)_k$-NH-A_3-NH_2

wherein A_1, each A_2 (if present), and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl and k is 0, [1,] 2, or 3.

24. (Once amended) A method of synthesizing a compound of the formula



wherein A_1 is C_3 alkyl, and each A_2 (if present) and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl;

wherein each Y is independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein M is selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein k is 0, [1,] 2, or 3;

and wherein R is selected from C_1-C_{32} alkyl;

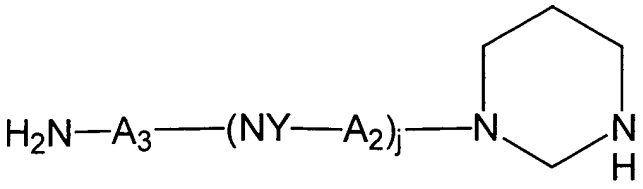
comprising the steps of:

condensing a compound comprising a primary amino group and a hexahydropyrimidine moiety with an α,β-unsaturated ester compound such that the primary amino group adds at the β-position of the unsaturated ester compound, whereby the primary amino group is converted to a secondary amino group;

cleaving the methylene bridge of the hexahydropyrimidine moiety to generate a secondary amino group and a newly-generated primary amino group; and

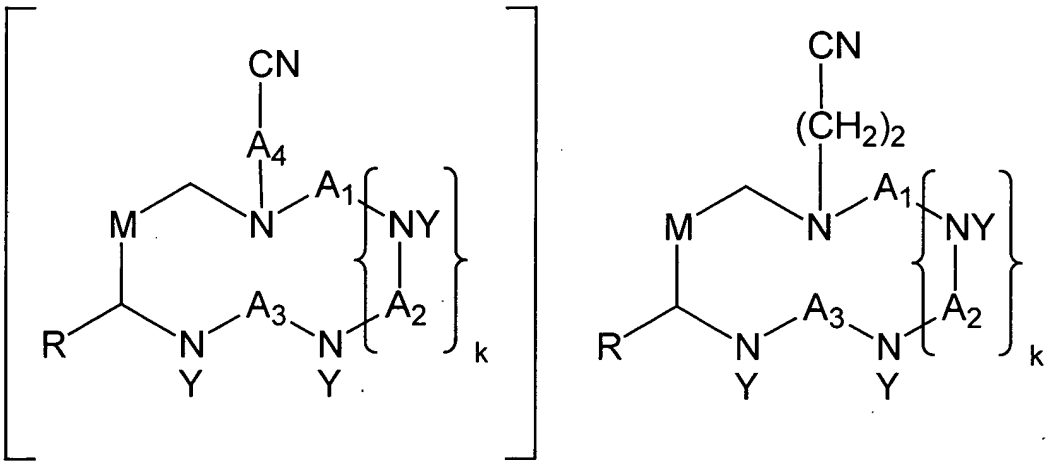
condensing the newly-generated primary amino group with the ester group to form an amide group.

26. (Once amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the compound comprising a primary amino group and a hexahydropyrimidine moiety is of the formula



wherein each A_2 (if present) and A_3 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl;
wherein each Y is independently selected from H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; and
wherein j is 0, [1,] 2, or 3.

44. (Once amended) A method of synthesizing a compound of claim 37, wherein A_4 is C_3 alkyl and X is $-NH_2$, comprising reducing the nitrile group of a compound of the formula



[where A_4 is selected from C_1-C_7 alkyl,]
to an amino group.